

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 are canceled.

Claims 27 (currently amended) In a reciprocating gas compressor, a sealing element for use in an unloader comprising elastomeric material, said sealing element operably engaging a seating surface with surface contact.

28. (original) The sealing element of Claim 27 wherein the unloader is a plug unloader.

29. (original) The sealing element of Claim 27 wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic rubber, fluoro-elastomer, thermoset elastomer, thermoplastic elastomer, elastomeric copolymers, elastomeric terpolymers, elastomeric polymer blends and elastomeric alloys.

30. (currently amended) An unloader for use in a gas compressor comprising an elastomeric sealing element, said sealing element operably engaging a seating surface with surface contact.

31. (original) The unloader of Claim 30 wherein said unloader is a plug unloader.

32. (currently amended) A reciprocating gas compressor comprising an unloader having a sealing element, said sealing element having at least one layer made of elastomeric material and operably engaging a seating surface with surface contact.

33. (currently amended) A method of making an unloader comprising the following steps:

applying elastomeric material to a substrate to produce an elastomeric sealing element; and

assembling said sealing element into an unloader for use in a reciprocating gas compressor, said sealing element operably engaging a seating surface with surface contact.

34. (currently amended) A method of making an unloader comprising the following steps:

making a sealing element of elastomeric material, said sealing element operably engaging a seating surface with surface contact; and

assembling said sealing element into an unloader for use in a reciprocating gas compressor.